

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-13
EB-08 /086 W
-----090536 231047Z /14
R 222015Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 1397

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR'S REQUEST FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE

REF: 77 SAN SALVADOR 5161 AND 5991

1. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH EITHER A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE
RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR'S REQUEST, NOW OUT-
STANDING MORE THAN SIX MONTHS, FOR ASSISTANCE IN MOUNTING
AN EDUCATIONAL TV EFFORT DESIGNED TO BRING HOME TO NATION-
WIDE SECURITY FORCES THE IMPORTANCE AND THE KNOW-HOW OF
IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE.

2. DURING HER VISIT HER, PATT DERIAN OFFERED SUCH
ASSISTANCE. ON OCTOBER 25 VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO WROTE HER
THAT THE TV SETS WERE IN PLACE AND AGAIN REQUESTED ASSIS-
TANCE IN FORMULATING PROGRAM CONTENT. IN EARLY NOVEMBER, HE
REITERATED THIS REQUEST. IN LATE NOVEMBER, UNDER INSTRUCTION
FROM THE DEPARTMENT, WE TOLD VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO THAT HIS
REQUEST WAS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY AND THAT USG HOPED TO BE AS
RESPONSIVE AS LAW AND RESOURCES WOULD ALLOW. ON DECEMBER 29,
THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF SAN SALVADOR ENTHUSIASTICALLY
ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.

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3. IT IS HIGHLY PERTINENT THAT MANY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS ADVERSELY AFFECTING RURAL CAMPESINOS AND EVEN OTHERS
SPRING FROM LONG-ESTABLISHED LOCAL CUSTOM AND
REFLECT THE LOW PAY AND RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED OR
EVEN PRIMITIVE LEVEL OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES AT WORKING
LEVELS IN THE SECURITY SERVICES. THERE IS REASON TO

BELIEVE THAT IN PRESIDENT ROMERO AND VICE PRESIDENT
ASTACIO WE HAVE RELATIVELY POSITIVE (THOUGH CONSTRAINED)
FORCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT. WHAT THEY ARE
SEEKING FROM US IS ASSISTANCE IN TRANSMITTING SOME OF THEIR
POSITIVE FORCE TO LEVELS OF THE SECURITY SERVICES
WHERE IT CAN HAVE MEANINGFUL IMPACT. IT WOULD SEEM CLEARLY
CONSONANT WITH OUR OWN PROFESSED HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS TO
AFFORD SUCH ASSISTANCE.

4. PROTRACTED DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THIS REQUEST
SUGGESTS TO US THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY BE
CONCERNED LEST SUCH ASSISTANCE MIGHT CONTRAVENE
LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FUNDING ASSISTANCE
TO FOREIGN POLICE ORGANIZATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION,
THE LEGAL CONSTRAINT AS WE UNDERSTAND IT IS ONLY ON
USE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT FUNDS FOR AID TO FOREIGN
POLICE FORCES AND NOT ON GIVING ADVICE OR
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER FUNDS. IF THE PROBLEM
IS THE CONCERN OVER THE RESTRAINTS OF LAW OR POLICY
(SEE PAR 6, STATE 045685), WE RESPECTIVELY SUGGEST THAT
THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW AND POLICY, OR THEIR INTENT,
MAY BE STRAINED SINCE THE PURPOSE HERE IS NOT TO ASSIST,
TRAIN, OR SUPPLY A FOREIGN POLICY BODY IN SUCH A WAY
AS TO ENHANCE ITS CAPABILITIES BUT IN CONTRAST TO
INTRODUCE--THROUGH EDUCATION--CONSTRAINTS UPON ITS
BEHAVIOR IN THE DIRECTION OF THAT IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS
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PERFORMANCE WHICH WE ALL DESIRE AND WHICH OUR LEGISLATION
SEEKS.

5. IN ANY EVENT, IN VIEW OF THE MORE THAN SIX MONTHS
WHICH HAVE ELAPSED, THIS ENTIRE MATTER IS BECOMING AN
EMBARRASSMENT TO US. WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN
AUTHORIZE US TO INFORM THE GOES THAT WE ARE INCAPABLE
OF MEETING ITS REQUEST AND THAT IT SHOULD TURN ELSE-
WHERE FOR WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT REQUIRES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS01397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0055
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780337/aaaabezm.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d58c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 5161
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR'S REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
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